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**1999 CHEVY Z-71 LS** - Ex Cab - leather - only 39K




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**2002 MUSTANG** -pw & i, tile, cruise, low mileage




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**1997 Z-71 SILVERADO** - ex cab - AT-8



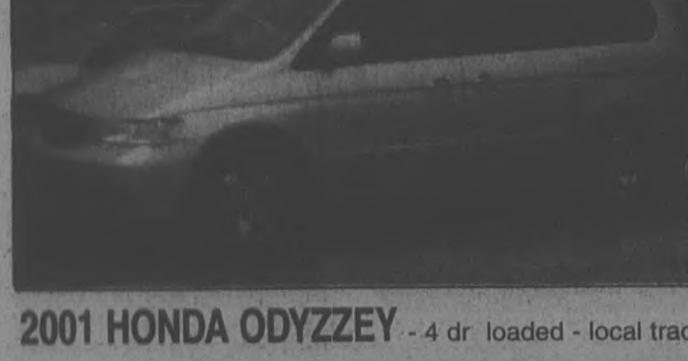
**1999 FORD EXPLORER XLS** - p w & locks - tilt-cruise - AM/FMCD player




**2000 CHEV Z-71 SILVERADO LS** - under factory warranty




**1999 CHEV. BLAZER LS** - local trade - 35,000 miles




**2001 HONDA ODYZZEY** - 4 dr loaded - local trade



**2001 CHEV 4X2 L3-PKG** - like new - one owner - sharp - must see




**1999 FORD EXPLORER XLS** - P W & L - tilt - cruise, AM-FM CD player



**2002 CHEV VENTURE VAN LS** - under factory warranty



**2000 LINCOLN TOWN CAR** - Signature Series - one owner - like new - MUST SEE



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gets new bus

INSIDE

Ward-Barnett  
 announce April  
 wedding plans

INSIDE

Elba High School  
 welcomes new  
 student intern

# The Elba Clipper

Volume 106, Number 37

50 Cents

Elba, Alabama

Thursday, February 27, 2003

1 Section, 12 Pages Plus 2 Adv. Inserts

## Elba Police investigate series of car burglaries

by Linda Hodge, Editor

A series of vehicle burglaries last Friday evening, Feb. 21, left the Elba Police Department this week searching for a suspect and urging residents to take every precaution to avoid this type crime.

Elba Police Chief R.W. "Ronnie" Whitworth said his department was notified of a series of vehicle burglaries last Friday evening in the Elba High School parking lot. Upon arrival

at the scene, he said the officers found six vehicles that had been burglarized as the owners attended a Coffee County Arts Alliance production inside the school.

Whitworth said a window had been broken on each vehicle and personal property was taken including money.

The one thing Whitworth said each vehicle had in common was that the valuable items were left in view.

He said some personal items, were recovered in the parking lot and around the school area, and it appeared the thief was mainly after money.

One other vehicle burglary was reported Friday evening in the Woodville community of northern Coffee County as several people were attending an auction.

Whitworth said vehicle owners should do everything they can to avoid being the victim of a motor vehicle burglary. A few suggestions include being sure to lock the doors when the vehicle is unoccupied and make sure all valuables are completely out of view. However, he said the best thing to do to avoid a burglary is to not leave valuables in the vehicle when it is unoccupied.

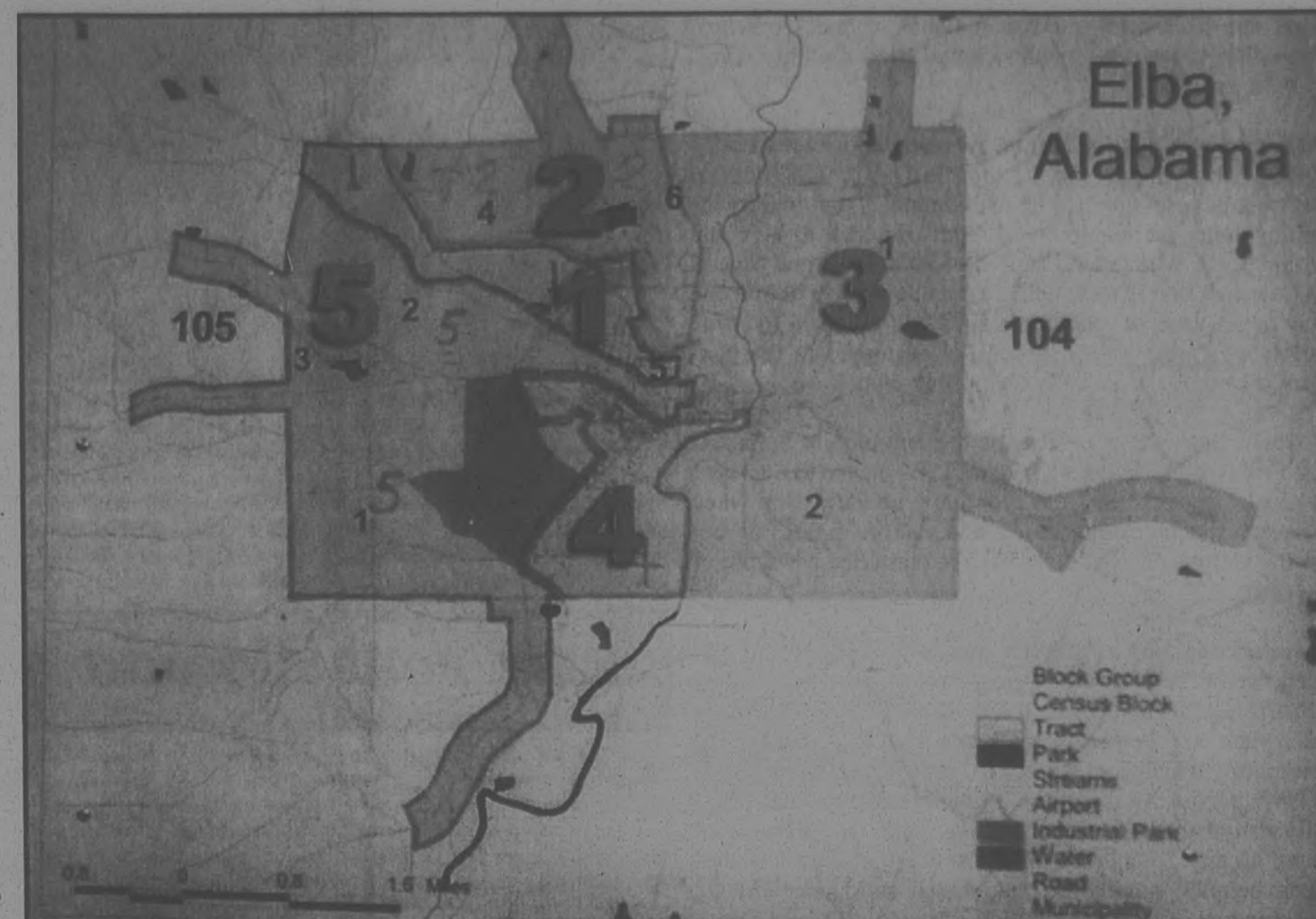
The Elba Police Department is continuing its investigation into Friday night's burglaries, and anyone with information pertaining to this matter is asked to call the department at 897-2555.

### \*NOTICE\*

The Water Dept. of the town of New Brockton has announced that water in the town will be turned off in some areas Feb. 24 - 28, in order to reconnect water lines to accommodate the Highway 84 Bypass. New lines have already been installed.

When possible, a day's notice will be given to areas that will be affected, and the off-time is not expected to be long.

Anyone having questions may call the New Brockton Water Dept. at 894-5550.



**ELBA VOTER REDISTRICTING** will be the subject of a public hearing to be held at City Hall on March 4th. The above map represents a redistricting plan designed by Horseshoe H Consulting, of Troy. The firm contracted with the City of Elba to redraw the district lines to properly reflect five even districts, following the 2000 federal census. The most noticeable changes in district lines are between District 5 and 1 and the moving of the Western District 3 boundary from the natural flow of Pea River and Whitewater Creek to Highway 87 North (Troy Highway). With an official population of 4,185, an ideal voting district in Elba is 837. The existing districts vary in population from 700 to 1029. Registered voter population varies from 724 to 792. Under the proposed new plan the districts will vary in population from 812 (District 3) to 849 in District 2. Voting population will vary from 605 in District 3 to 624 in District 5. The new proposal gives District 1 a minority population of 61.9%, which is as near as possible to a desirable 65% minority population suggested in the national Voting Rights Act while maintaining as near as possible the voting districts originally established and approved by the federal government, according to the plan writers.

There are several numbers displayed on the above redistricting map, however the large red numbers designate the five Elba voting districts.

## Motorists urged to use caution during rainy weather



Slippery roads played a contributing factor in this Friday afternoon, Feb. 21, accident on U.S. Hwy. 84 E. in the Shiloh community. According to reports, the Oldsmobile was stopped for a local school bus when the Honda clipped it from behind. The Honda then slid off the roadway and into the trees at the right. Coffee County EMS transferred only the driver of the Oldsmobile to Elba General Hospital where he stayed overnight and was released. Fortunately, the air bags deployed on the Honda which prevented serious injury when the car experienced a front impact. Responding to the scene were units from the Elba Police Department, Coffee County Sheriff's Department and Elba Fire Department. The accident was investigated by the Alabama State Troopers office.

## During Coffee County Commission meeting

### Bids opened for Solid Waste Collection contract

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Coffee County Commission meeting Monday, Feb. 24, seemed to follow suit with the old saying, "Blink and you'll miss it," as commissioners zoomed through the agenda and adjourned within 20 minutes.

The majority of the discussion revolved around the county's solid waste collection as commissioners opened bids from five separate companies. However, only three of the companies actually submitted a bid for the contract. The other two companies offered a no bid.

During the previous meeting of the commission, it was decided to look at two different options regarding the collection process. Option 1A would let the contracted company pick up the solid waste in Coffee County and also be responsible for the billing process and collection of money from the county residents for the service. Option 2B would let the contracted company

pick up the solid waste with the county paying an agreed upon service fee, and then the county would be responsible for the billing process and collecting its money from the residents (this is the current procedure method).

Monday morning, bids were submitted from Mark Dunning Industries (MDI), Arrow Disposal Services and Barry Moore Industries.

MDI submitted a no bid for Option 1A, and a cost of \$52,225 for Option 2B. Arrow Disposal Services submitted a cost of \$13,700 for Option 1A and a cost of \$66,000 for Option 2B. Barry Moore Industries submitted a bid of \$14,133 for Option 1A and a cost of \$59,076 for Option 2B.

Upon the recommendation of county engineer Randy Tindell, commissioners opted to table this issue until the next meeting.

Commission chairman Robert Stephens said this would allow commissioners time to study the submitted bids and discuss all

options before awarding the bid. According to the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Please See CCC, Page 3

## During Elba City Council meeting

### Three more businesses get alcohol license approval

by Ferrin Cox, Publisher

The Elba City Council members were in and out again Monday night with items of business including board appointments and approval of alcohol licenses.

Retail sale of Beer and Wine was approved for both Big Little Stores in Elba and for Elba Marketplace. All were approved without debate or public protest, as were those approved at the last council meeting.

Eddie Kelley was appointed to another six year term on the Industrial Development Board. He is presently serving as chairman of that board.

Mike McGuire was appointed to a six year term on the

Elba Planning & Zoning Board. He replaces W. H. Scarborough who asked not to be reappointed to another term.

Mayor James Grimes asked for a council member to volunteer as the voting delegate at the April annual League of Municipalities convention. No member indicated plans to attend the meeting.

Police Chief R. W. Whitworth told council members that the back up electric generator at the police department has been installed and is working properly.

The Chief also updated council members on the seven auto-

mobile break-ins at the high school last Friday night. Grimes updated council members on the financial status of the city's general fund. He noted a large portion of the overrun in expenses was due to the annual USDA payment on the sewer loan.

Retired city employees will no longer be able to remain on the state employee insurance program as of March 1st. A minimum requirement of three retirees and at least 5% of the total must participate for the insurance to remain in force. Elba's retiree participation does not come up to these numbers.

### \*NOTICE\*

Due to the levee rehabilitation project, Caroline Street in Elba will be closed at the levee beginning Thursday, March 6. This road will remain closed for approximately nine weeks.

## Area Happenings

**THE COFFEE COUNTY MITIGATION PLANNING COMMITTEE** is scheduled to meet Thursday, Feb. 27, at 6 p.m. in the Coffee County Emergency Management Agency's conference room located in the county commission complex in New Brockton, Ala. All interested county residents are invited to attend. For more information call 894-5415.

**ELBA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** will hold graduation ceremonies for its D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness and Resistance in Education) program Friday, Feb. 28, at 9 a.m. in the cafeteria. The guest speaker for the event will be Alabama State Trooper Johnny Sene.

**THE ELBA LUNEA CLUB** will hold its annual open house breakfast Saturday, March 1, from 9-10 a.m. at the Elba Senior Citizens Building.

**ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB** will meet on Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m. in the boys locker room at Elba High School.



**CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY**...The Mulberry District Baptist Association held a Black History program Saturday evening, Feb. 22, with Rev. C.A. Hammond Jr., pastor of Pleasant Shade Baptist Church, as the guest speaker. The program was held at Rocky Head Baptist Church in Elba and included remarks from several local pastors and special choir music. Despite the gloomy week-end weather, a huge crowd of citizens gathered to celebrate this special occasion. Black History Month is celebrated every February and is dedicated to remembering those who helped develop the paths taken yesterday and today.



## EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS  
With Ferrin Cox

Before our faithful readers attack us because there is no weekly hospital report in the paper this week, listen up. The official word from the hospital staff is they will no longer be giving us that report to "protect patient privacy." That particular snippet of news has been a weekly feature of this newspaper ever since the first week the facility opened, way back in the early 1960's. The last time we checked, each patient signed a waiver on releasing their name in the weekly report, etc. Then why is it stopped now? There are reports of "new privacy laws, etc." but you need to ask someone other than us, because frankly it doesn't make a lot of sense any way you cut it. We will survive with the hope our friends all survive and their friends somehow know they are or have been sick and need soothing words of kindness.

The new voter district alignments being considered by the City of Elba will probably be approved next month without any openly upset voters. The realignment is required by the voting rights act requirement for district size to be equal within ±5%. The federal census of 2000 indicated several variances within Elba which are outside the 5% limits, one way or another. The minor changes will be taken in stride as Alabama voters have become accustomed to the constant shifting of voter districts, polling places, etc.

It was embarrassing to hear of the automobile break-ins last Friday night at the high school. We never like to hear of crooks at work, and it is even more embarrassing when there is a special event in town and visitors to our fair city are the victims of what can easily be classified as "scum of the earth".

It was encouraging to hear that one of the Hyundai spin off firms would be locating in neighboring Enterprise. They worked hard to land these folks, and a large part of their sales pitch was the fact they already have a segment of the community which is of Korean origin. That is not just opinion, we personally heard them quietly pointing that bit of information to the proper officials. With one of the concerns of any foreign company being the acceptance of "their people", having citizens of that nationality already working and living peacefully in an area will make it easy to convince others that "this is a good place for you to move with your friends and family." Our legislative delegation has worked hard to help Coffee County become part of Alabama's expanding automobile manufacturing community and hopefully their efforts haven't gone unnoticed by the voters.

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Ricky Mulatz - SPORTS  
Heddy J. Cox - BUSINESS MANAGER

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6 months - \$10  
Outside Alabama - \$21 per year - 6 months - \$11



The anniversary of the death of C.E. "Neil" Grantham, Sheriff of Coffee County, will be Saturday, March 1. It was 24 years ago that Sheriff Grantham was shot and killed outside the Coffee County Jail. On June 30, 1981, Billy Joe Magwood was convicted of killing Sheriff Grantham. Magwood remains on death row at Holman Prison in Amore. On April 23, 1997, Magwood's attorney filed an appeal in the United States Middle District Court in Montgomery. As of this date, the Middle District Court has not ruled on this appeal.

## Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, beginning Monday, Feb. 17, 2003, investigated the following incidents: one harassment, one menacing, four for theft of property, one burglary, one harassing communications, one criminal trespassing, one criminal mischief, one dog running at large, eight for breaking and entering of a motor vehicle, two for domestic violence, one lost cellular telephone, three for possession of marijuana, two for possession of drug paraphernalia, one for possession of a controlled substance.

The following arrests were made: two for failure to appear, one for menacing, two for domestic violence, one for harassing communications, three for possession of marijuana, one for possession of a controlled substance and two for possession of drug paraphernalia.

**CALL CRIMESTOPPERS**  
@ 897-3881  
TO REPORT A CRIME  
REMAIN ANONYMOUS

## BULLETIN BOARD

• **SOCIAL SECURITY REP.** Courtroom: 4th Tues. 12:30-1:30. Call 897-1300. 722-1212.  
• **ROTARY CLUB** - Tuesday @ Noon-First First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.  
• **ELBA MINISTERIAL ASSN.** - Tues. - 8 a.m. Elba United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.  
• **ELBA CITY COUNCIL** - 2nd & 4th Monday - 6 p.m. City Hall.  
• **WATER & ELECTRIC** - Tuesday following 2nd Monday - 6 p.m. - City Hall.

• **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** - every Monday 6:30 p.m. - Elba United Methodist Church center on side on W. Davis St. - Maggie Garrett Classroom.  
• **COFFEE COUNTY COMMISSION** - 2nd & 4th Monday - Community Room in Farm Center Complex @ New Brockton.

• **LIONS CLUB** - 2nd & 4th Tues. 6:30 p.m. Senior Citizen Center.

• **ELBA CITY SCHOOL BOARD** - 1st Thurs. - 5:30 p.m. - Court Office.

• **AMERICAN LEGION** - 1st Tuesday of every month 7:00 p.m. Legion Hall, Troy Hwy.

• **MASONIC LODGE 176** - 1st & 3rd Monday of each month 7 p.m.

• **BAND BOOSTERS** - 1st Mon. - 7 p.m. Band Room @ Elba High School.

• **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER** - Mon-Fri. 8-12 noon & 12:30 - 4:30 New Brockton @ Farm Center Complex 894-3535.

• **COFFEE COUNTY COON HUNTERS ASSN.** - 3rd Sat. - 3 p.m. Club House.

• **COFFEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN** - 3rd Wed. Noon. Colony Inn, Enterprise.

• **ELBA AIRPORT AUTHORITY** - 2nd Thursday at noon. Detroit Hotel at the Airport.

• **AAAP** meets every 3rd Tuesday night of the month.

• **ELBA ATHLETIC CLUB** - 1st & 3rd Monday 7 p.m. - Elba High boys locker room.

• **NEW SEASONS STUDY CLUB** - Every 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Traffic citations issued during the week were as follows: one for leaving the scene of an accident, one for no insurance and one for driving with a suspended driver's license.

Daily activity highlights for the week were as follows:  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17** - Alarm activated at Kelley Foods building A (5:49 a.m.); River stage - 9.89 feet (7:11 a.m.); Prowler reported at 1435 Smith Ave. (8:52 p.m.).

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18** - River stage - 9.87 feet (6:09 a.m.); Routine activity.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19** - River stage - 9.10 feet (6:38 a.m.); Routine activity.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20** - River stage - 8.58 feet (6:43 a.m.); Routine activity.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21** - River stage - 6.43 feet (6:24 a.m.); Two-vehicle wreck reported on Hwy. 84 E in the Shiloh community (3:33 p.m.); Elba Fire Department dispatched to the wreck on Hwy. 84 E (3:35 p.m.); Minor wreck reported on County Rd. 502 (4:16 p.m.).

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22** - Elba Fire Department dispatched to a fire at 1319 Highland Dr. (5:10 a.m.); River stage - 9.80 feet (6:00 a.m.); Disturbance reported at #11 Birch Trailer Court (7:15 a.m.); Civil disturbance reported at 153 Larkin Rd. (3:15 p.m.); Report of shots fired at 830 Reese Ave. (7:03 p.m.).

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23** - Disturbance reported at Beaver Dam Court, Lot C3 (3:27 a.m.); River stage - 10.52 feet (7:14 a.m.); Routine activity.

Shop the Classifieds!  
Shop the Classifieds!  
Shop the Classifieds!

## EHS Band Boosters need chairs for 2003 Band Day

Band Day will be held April 5 in Elba, and Band Boosters are asking for chairs that may be auctioned at the "Band Charity." Any type of chair is acceptable, from stools and swings to benches and rockers. New chairs will be accepted, as well as old chairs with the potential to be reworked.

Anyone with a chair to donate may contact Vicky Bailey at 897-3320, Rhonda Brunson at 897-3307, or Lynn Baker at 897-3813.

## Walk! Alabama set to begin March 4

Walk! Alabama is a fun, eight-week fitness program that will spark some friendly competition in Coffee County and in counties across the state March 4 - April 28. In the program, teams of eight friends, neighbors, family members and co-workers compete to see which team can walk the most miles and be the first to reach a goal of 850 miles.

Although team members can walk together as a group, most of them likely will choose to walk on their own. Each member keeps a log of how many miles he or she walks and reports the total to the team captain each week; the team's total mileage is what counts. Every team's mileage will be tracked on a weekly basis on an official Walk! Alabama map that will be posted in the Coffee County Extension office.

To participate in Walk! Alabama, get an eight-member team together, name the team, choose a team captain, and fill out a registration form. Forms are available at the Coffee County Extension Office in New Brockton and Elba and

There are millions of people in America today who could be like Todd Beamer on 9-11-01, coming face to face with an uncertain end to life. Somewhere in his life he had been taught what the Bible tells us in John 14:6 - that "without confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior none of us will go to Heaven."

We all know the story of how he called a telephone operator and got her to pray Psalms 23 with him before his plane crashed. Today that young man is in Heaven as a result of his

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am in the fifth grade at Neil Hatfield School in Manteca, Calif. I have adopted your state as a class project. I will be doing a report and making a display about Alabama. Towards the end of April my class will be having a "State Fair." I will display and show everything that I have gotten and learned about your state to my whole school.

It would be helpful to me if you could ask your readers to send me postcards of your state, maps, brochures, information about wildlife, industry, neat places to visit, statistics, sports teams and any other information and items your readers feel would be helpful.

I hope your readers will help me with my project. I'm looking forward to hearing from them and promise to send a thank you to them for helping me. I am excited to learn about your state!

**Thank you from California,**  
Xubella Hernandez  
c/o Mrs. Terprais's & Ms. Monni McAlley's Class  
Neil Hatfield School  
849 Northgate Dr.  
Manteca, CA 95336

Dear Editor,

There are millions of people in America today who could be like Todd Beamer on 9-11-01, coming face to face with an uncertain end to life. Somewhere in his life he had been taught what the Bible tells us in John 14:6 - that "without confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior none of us will go to Heaven."

We all know the story of how he called a telephone operator and got her to pray Psalms 23 with him before his plane crashed. Today that young man is in Heaven as a result of his

prayer. We have been told that our enemies have bombs and germ warfare which could wipe out all of civilization. Please clip this prayer and keep it in your wallet.

"Our Father Which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."

"Father God, we thank you for sending Jesus Christ to earth to die on the cross for our sins and preparing a place in Heaven for all of us. I confess all my sins today and ask Jesus Christ to come into my heart and forgive me of all that I have done wrong. Psalms 23 says You will walk with me through the valley of the shadow of death and I will fear no evil, for you are with me. I pray Psalms 91 over me today, which says that your angels of protection are with me and that no evil and no plague can come near me. Thank you Lord for telling us in your Word that we can bind all evil in this world today. So right now in the Name of Jesus Christ I bind Satan off me and my family and off the United States of America. I pray Psalms 35 on all enemies of the United States of America."

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## SHARE YOUR VIEWS - WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page One)

## CCC

mously, the bid awarding will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Coffee County Emergency Management Agency director John Tallas briefly addressed the commission to update the numbers on a couple of matters.

Tallas said if all goes well he hopes to have county warning sirens #19 and #20 installed by the end of the week. These sirens will go in the Tri-Communities and Goodman areas of the county.

Also, Tallas said the local EMA office received two grants last week. This included a Department of Justice homeland security related grant for more than \$30,000 to allow emergency first responders an

opportunity to purchase additional equipment.

Tallas said the second grant was much smaller but also very important because it would allow the EMA department to upgrade its emergency operations plan.

County administrator Wilson Mobley requested permission to seek an opinion from the attorney general concerning military leave benefits for employees still in the probationary period of employment.

Mobley said the commission's handbook of procedure doesn't clarify how to handle benefits for these employees, therefore, he wanted to ask for the attorney general's opinion to be sure the county is being

fair to all employees. Mobley added that benefits for full-time employees past the six month probation period are not in question.

In other business, the commission:

- \* Appointed Commissioner Jim Thompson to serve on the Enterprise Coffee Geneva Economic Development Board.
- Thompson will replace Commissioner Linda Westbrook on this board. Westbrook served as the commission's representative for two years.
- Reconfirmed the appointments of Commissioner Doug Dalrymple, Commissioner Bernest Brooks and Judy Hurley to the RC&D board.
- Upon the recommendation of commissioner Dalrymple, reappointed Joey Powell to a six year term on the Mount Pleasant Water Authority.

Clark, Theatres • Enterprise

Clark, Theatres • Enterprise

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Clark, Theatres • Enterprise

## Obituaries

Homeland, Fla.; Wayne Byrd, Sallaw, Okla.; Kenneth Byrd, Panama City, Fla.; Raymond Byrd, Paoli, Penn.; sister, Myra Tomlinson, Barrow, Fla.; 22 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

**RICKY LAMAR WILLIAMS JR.**  
Ricky Lamar Williams Jr., age 17, of Geneva, Ala., died Feb. 13, 2003.

Funeral services were held Feb. 22, 2003, at the Geneva Church of God in Christ with Dr. J.C. McLeod and Elder Rufus Lee officiating. Burial followed at Forest Hill Cemetery, Geneva, with Wiregrass Funeral Home of Geneva directing.

Survivors include his parents: Ricky Williams Sr., Rickerd, mother Sharon Williams, Geneva; two brothers: Jamaal Williams and Jaquan Broxton, Geneva; a god-sister: Eniqua Jenkins, Geneva; maternal grandmother: Nicle Mae Taylor, Bellwood, paternal grandmother: Bettie Snell, Hartford; aunts: Lois (Rufus) Simpkins, Nola Amos, Ora Martinez and Gloria Hogan, all of Bellwood; Debra (Earnest) Dukes, Lakeland, Fla.; and Charles (Frank) Pettit, Geneva; uncles: Anderson Hogan, Lakeland, Fla.; Jimmy Corbitt, Bellwood; Eddie Williams, Detroit, Mich.; Author Williams and Arnie Adkins, Tampa, Fla.; great uncle and aunt, Jessie and China B. Williams, Bellwood.

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